

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SCI-06 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 /056 W

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R 231429Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9443

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3184

STATE FOR CU/EE

USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: EXCHANGES - GATHERING CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON?

1. EMBASSY HAS PERCEIVED SEVERAL SIGNS OVER PAST FEW WEEKS THAT SUGGEST A CERTAIN DELIBERATE "TIGHTENING" ON THE ROMANIAN SIDE IN CONNECTION WITH FOREIGN TRAVEL BY ROMANIANS; THESE SIGNS SUGGEST NEW PROBLEMS FOR THE U.S.-ROMANIAN EXCHANGE OF PERSONS PROGRAMS. SEVERAL OF THESE WERE DISCUSSED WITH EMMETT FORD DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO BUCHAREST AND ARE REPEATED HERE FOR WIDER DISTRIBUTION IN WASHINGTON. OTHERS HAVE COME TO LIGHT FOLLOWING HIS DEPARTURE.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE, IN OUR VIEW, ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A) ROMANIAN GRADUATE STUDENT NOMINEES FOR 1974-75 HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER ORIENTATION PROGRAMS IN U.S.;

B) ROMANIAN UNION OF WRITERS HAS DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN 1975 INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM (SUBJECT SEPTTEL);

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C) MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS ADVISED EMBASSY THAT " AS

OF THIS TIME," ROMANIAN ACADEMIC PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WILL BE UNABLE ARRIVE IN U.S. "PRIOR SEPTEMBER 1" DESPITE FACT THAT SOME PROGRAMS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN EARLIER;

D) EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOUR NOMINATIONS FROM COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION FOR PROGRAMS UNDER ARTICLE I, SECTION 1 (D) WHICH REQUEST THAT CANDIDATES TRAVEL IN PARIS DURING U.S. PROGRAM;

E) CERTAIN ROMANIAN NOMINATIONS IN LECTURER AND RESEARCH SCHOLAR CATEGORIES ARE, AT PRESENT, "UNDER REVIEW."

3. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED SOME OF THESE SIGNS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALTERNATE MEMBER ILIESCU WHEN THEY MET IN TIMISOARA JULY 5, BUT ILIESCU INDICATED NO KNOWLEDGE ON HIS PART OF ANY POLICY SHIFT OR DELIBERATE SLOW-DOWN. IOAN URSU, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DID COMMENT DURING A RECENT CALL BY THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE COUNCIL INTENDED TO PAY CLOSER ATTENTION IN THE FUTURE TO "THE PRACTICAL BENEFITS" TO BE DERIVED BY ROMANIA FROM THE FOREIGN TRAVEL OF SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOCRATS. IN ADDITION, URSU SAID THAT REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF PERIOD ABROAD WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF MORE CAREFUL SCRUTINY THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. (CONCERN REGARDING FREQUENT AND PROLONGED EXTENSIONS WAS ALSO VOICED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DURING THE FORD VISIT.)

4. THE AMBASSADOR WILL MENTION OUR CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE COURSE OF A CALL ON DEPUTY FORMIN GLIGA THIS WEEK AND ALSO THE NEXT TIME HE SEES FORMIN MACOVESCU. IN ADDITION, THE GENERAL EXCHANGE-OF-PERSONS AMBIANCE IN THE CULTURAL FIELD WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH DUMITRU POPESCU, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION WHENEVER AMBASSADOR'S LONG-REQUESTED CALL ON HIM TAKES PLACE.

5. MEANWHILE, WHETHER ITEMS LISTED PARA. 2 ABOVE REPRESENT A DECISION TO REDUCE THE PACE OF EXCHANGES OR ARE MERELY NEW VARIATIONS OF THE GENERAL INEFFICIENCY THEME, THE PRESENT PICTURE WILL REQUIRE SOME PATIENCE AND STRETCHING OF DEADLINES BY THE DEPARTMENT, PROGRAM AGENCIES, AND U.S. INSTITUTIONS DURING AUTUMN ARRIVAL PERIOD. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.

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